

FFWPU UK: *My Oath* Senior HARP UK Workshop 2023-24 at Livingstone House

Michael Balcomb

January 10, 2024

Written by: Grace T. and Pyong Chan D.



'To end the year 2023, a group of young adults gathered as a staff team to help create an environment for the Senior HARP UK workshop held at Livingstone House for members aged 14-18. The motto for this workshop was "My Oath: Clear. Centred. Transcendent.".



Oath's definition is 'a solemn promise, often invoking a divine witness, regarding one's future action or behaviour.'

We chose 'My Oath' as the workshop motto because when reflecting on the year and looking ahead, we

wanted to create a space where we could go deeper into our commitments, being able to make a sincere promise in our lives. The definition was fitting as it talks about 'invoking a divine witness' in our promise. This is exactly what we wanted to focus on for this workshop of diving into the new year with new oaths that are done together with God as our witness and support.



This workshop was an impactful experience for both the staff and the participants. It was emphasised from the start, and through the staff training and preparation, that in this workshop, we wanted to create a more mature environment together as a whole workshop to go deeper in our relationships with each other and with God. We are so grateful for the staff team's seriousness with the workshop's purpose and the care they could provide. We are so grateful for the participants' being open and receptive to the schedule, content, and activities of sharing to allow for a culture where we could go deeper and feel free to explore the answers to our internal questions in life.



The staff training and preparation weekend was vital in creating a foundation for working together as a staff team. We were able to reflect on our personal internal realities, digest previous staffing experiences, and learn new approaches to leadership. It allowed us to be on the same page for the purpose of the workshop. We are grateful to our elders, Patrick and Yebuny H., for hosting us, providing content, and caring for us over the weekend.

The workshop could have guest lecturers Uncle William H. and Gary R., who provided different approaches to providing content. Uncle William explored the story of Abraham and the journey he had to go through to truly understand where he came from and then commit to his oath of being a son of God. He then shared principled perspectives of what it means to be clear in the society that the youth are living in today. Gary facilitated discussion sessions where everyone could have their voice heard as we explored various topics as a workshop. For this workshop, the discussion topics focused on the phrase in the Family Pledge no.7, a "culture of heart". It was beautiful to hear each other's stories of when they experienced this kind of culture and trying to understand what barriers within us stop us from experiencing and creating this culture.



The rest of the content and activities were led by different members of the staff team. We were fortunate to have various young adults with different experiences and journeys who could provide their insights on when they have committed to an "oath" in their life, their perspective on a purity lifestyle and what Matching and Blessing means as a tradition in our community. It was beneficial to understand what it means to transcend our current times, and our immediate desires and see beyond, to see what God has planned for our lives and the potential that all of us have to offer.



The challenge day was on New Year's Eve, and it was emphasised that there was an internal focus on the

various posts that they completed as a team. The challenges ended with a final push of "Heaven's training", where the workshop was guided through final physical activities together. It was powerful and moving to watch each individual going through their journey, their struggles, and their questions, but finding comfort in the unity and support from each other.



Gratefully, the year could end in a reflective tone with a reflection of the year and a worship session led by the band, ending the year, together, connected and centred on God through music. Thank you to everyone who was involved, the staff team, the participants, the parents and the communities supporting the youth to allow for this experience. Welcome, 2024! '

